

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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BLACK LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS SYMPOSIUM ON SEPT. 9 TO FOCUS ON RESPONSIBILITY

INDIANAPOLIS – Personal, community and government responsibility will serve as the theme for the Ninth Annual Symposium sponsored by the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus, scheduled for September 9 at the Indiana Statehouse and other locations in downtown Indianapolis.

The symposium, scheduled to last from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on that date, will include a series of speeches and workshops designed to inspire public involvement in issues surrounding the theme of "Personal Responsibility, Community Responsibility, Government Responsibility", according to State Rep. William Crawford (D-Indianapolis), event chairman.

"Those of us in the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus look forward to the symposium we host each year, because it gives us the best opportunity to educate and learn from our communities," Crawford said. "By getting actively involved in finding solutions to the problems that face us, lawmakers can do a better job representing their constituents and the public can become an active partner in helping make our communities better places to live and work."

In the morning session to begin at 9 a.m. in the Indiana House chamber, the guest speaker will be Dr. Rickie Keys from the National Institute to Combat Health Disparities, a non-profit research and program development organization that works with policymakers, corporations, foundations, community groups and others to improve the health of minority children, youth and their families.

The guest speaker for the afternoon session, which will begin at 1 p.m. at the Madame Walker Theater, will be Roniece Weaver, author of "The New Soul Food Cookbook for People with Diabetes" and "Slim Down Sister." State Rep. Vanessa Summers (D-Indianapolis) will moderate a post-speech question and answer session.

Crawford then will wrap up the day's activities by moderating a discussion under the theme "Building Community Collaborations as a Framework for Effective Solutions."

In addition to the speeches, Crawford said the event will include a series of discussions on several issues.

From 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., people can attend four individual sessions moderated by caucus members.

In the House chamber, State Reps. Carolene Mays (D-Indianapolis) and Charlie Brown (D-Gary) will moderate a discussion on diabetes.

In the Indiana Senate chamber, Black Legislative Caucus Chairman Greg Porter (D-Indianapolis), State Rep. Mae Dickinson (D-Indianapolis) and State Sens. Billie Breaux (D-Indianapolis) and Earline Rogers (D-Gary) will lead a session on educational issues. State Rep. Vernon G. Smith (D-Gary) will discuss assessment testing.

In Room 156 of the Statehouse, Crawford, State Rep. Earl Harris (D-East Chicago) and State Sen. Sam Smith (D-East Chicago) will guide one meeting on economic development, while State Rep. John Aguilera (D-East Chicago) and State Sen. Glenn Howard (D-Indianapolis) will lead a second session on civil and criminal law matters.

Cost to attend the symposium is \$50, although scholarships are available upon request. For more information, contact Benjamin Moore through the toll-free Statehouse telephone number of 1-800-382-9842.